

## **An Inside View of All Them**

**a comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff ©11.14.24**

Friends watching television together have an impromptu game of guessing what goes on inside various characters, which begins when the Black friend is asked what he thinks a Black person onscreen is like. "Like I'm supposed to know because I'm Black? Oh yeah, and that chick over there, the Black waitress? She started out selling magazines door-to-door in Pittsburgh, before she became a serial killer. We ALL knows each other!" They all break out laughing. The Italian friend then picks up on this. "Me too. Hey, that Mama in the scene scolding her kids? She's from Little Italy in Sacramento. We all know each other, all us Italians!" They all break out laughing again, and begin enjoying the idea, as each one has fun with pretending they have a great knowledge of everyone on TV who shares their ethnic identity. However, gradually, they begin to infer characters grouping together, with characteristics reflective of certain frictions. "Hey, later that night, John and Will, after their secret meeting with all of the other Asians in town, they're all planning to get together and steal all Bobby Q's stamp collection!" "Yeah, well if they do, I know Johnny and Mike ain't gonna let dem do dat to Bobby! They gonna..." Eventually they become completely carried away with the imagined animosities and the imagined number of characters participating in these, larger and larger gangs fighting one another, increasing exponentially. The subject of a kind of World War III develops into the "discussion" of these conflicts. Until a pretty girl appears in the show they're watching, at which point the friends immediately revert to the friendly guessing about what she's thinking. "I got NO idea!" "Me neither! One minute you think..."

**THE END**